

Message Text

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62

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 EUR-25 OMB-01 DRC-01 CU-05 /122 W

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P R 011005Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5186/

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 5033

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, KS

SUBJECT: TRIAL OF BISHOP CHI OPENS

1. AFTERNOON NEWS REPORTS CONFIRMED STORY THAT EMERGENCY COURT-MARTIAL TRIAL OF BISHOP CHI HAK-SON BEGAN THIS MORNING, AUG 1 AT 9 A.M. HE IS BEING TRIED BY THIRD PANEL WHICH IS ALSO TRYING EX-PRESIDENT YUN PO-SUN, REV. PARK, PROF KIM AND DEAN KIM. CATHOLIC AUTHORITIES WERE INFORMED LAST EVENING. CARDINAL KIM WHO IS PRESENTLY IN JAPAN HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN NOTIFIED AND PLANS TO RETURN SATURDAY, AUG. 3.

2. ACCORDING TO HAPDONG NEWS AGENCY, CHARGES AGAINST BISHOP CHI ARE THAT ON NOV 16, 1973 HE MET WITH POET KIM CHI-HA (KIM YONG-IL) WHO INFORMED HIM THAT STUDENTS HAD FORMED NATIONAL ORGANIZATION TO LAUNCH UPRISING AGAINST ROKG IN MARCH OR APRIL 1974 AND NEEDED FUNDS TO CARRY OUT PLAN. BISHOP INDICATED APPROVAL OF SUCH PLAN AND PROMISED SUPPORT FOR NFDYS PLAN TO OVER-THROW ROKG. THE BISHOP AND KIM MET ON FOUR OCCASIONS BETWEEN DEC 18, 1973 AND MARCH 8, 1974, DURING WHICH
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TIME BISHOP GAVE WON 1,080,000 (\$2,700) TO POET

FOR LAUNCHING REBELLION AGAINST GOVERNMENT.

3. TWO IRISH PRIESTS, FATHERS FOLEY AND KENNEDY, WHO HAD BEEN ARRESTED ON JULY 29 HAVE NOW BEEN RELEASED, ACCORDING TO BRITISH EMBASSY, WHICH HAS CONSULAR RESPONSIBILITY FOR IRISH CITIZENS IN KOREA. BRITISH SECOND SECRETARY INFORMED EMBASSY THAT BOTH PRIESTS HAD BEEN INTERROGATED AT LENGTH, BUT HAD NOT BEEN TORTURED OR TREATED HARSHLY. IN COURSE OF INTERROGATION WHEY WERE CONFRONTED WITH BISHOP CHI, WHO REPORTEDLY LOOKED RATHER TIRED AND ILL. MAIN CONCERN OF KCIA INTERROGATORS SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN ALLEGATION THAT THE TWO PRIESTS HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN A SCUFFLE WITH KCIA AGENTS WHEN BISHOP WAS ARRESTED JULY 25 IN FRONT OF MYONG DONG CATHEDRAL. REPORTEDLY BISHOP CHI SAID THAT THE TWO MEN HAD COOPERATED WITH HIM IN ASSISTING STUDENTS, BUT CIA WAS UNABLE TO GET EVIDENCE THAT PRIESTS HAD PARTICIPATED IN SCUFFLE WITH ARRESTING OFFICERS. REPORTEDLY CIA IS NOW LOOKING FOR TWO OTHER IRISH PRIESTS. IN MEANTIME THREE MORE KOREAN PRIESTS ON BISHOP'S STAFF IN WONJU HAVE BEEN ARRESTED.

4. ACCORDING TO BOTH PROTESTANT AND CATHOLIC SOURCES, CARDINAL KIM AND NCCC-K SECRETARY GENERAL KIM KWAN-SUK MET ON JULY 25 AND DISCUSSED POSSIBILITY OF CATHOLIC-PROTESTANT COOPERATION. CARDINAL KIM REPORTEDLY INDICATED INTEREST AND PROMISED FURTHER DISCUSSIONS ON COOPERATION IN LIGHT OF WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO BISHOP CHI.

5. ACCORDING TO CATHOLIC SOURCES, A CATHOLIC-PROTESTANT MEETING WAS HELD JULY 31 AT CHRISTIAN BUILDING WITH NUMBER OF PROTESTANT AND CATHOLIC CLERGYMEN AND SOCIAL ACTION LEADERS PRESENT. THEY ADOPTED RESOLUTION TO ASK GOVERNMENT TO RELEASE ALL CHRISTIAN LEADERS IN PRISON, LIFT EMERGENCY MEASURES, AND STOP CHURCH SURVEILLANCE. IF ROKG DID NOT OFFER CONCESSIONS ALONG THESE LINES BY END OF WEEK, CHRISTIAN CHURCH LEADERS WOULD HOLD PROTEST MARCH THROUGH SEOUL. EMBASSY SEEKING FURTHER CONFIRMATION.

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SPECIAL MASS WAS CONDUCTED FOR BISHOP CHI ON JULY 31 IN WONJU, ATTENDED BY OVER 1,000 PERSONS, INCLUDING PRIESTS, NUNS, AND FRIENDS OF BISHOP FROM ALL OVER KOREA. PRAYERS REPORTEDLY ASKED FOR RELEASE OF BISHOP AND OTHER PRISONERS, AND RESTORATION OF DEMOCRACY.

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